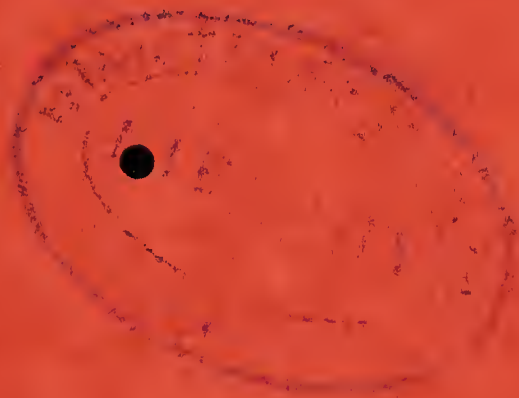


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Public Health Department

for the Year ended

31st December, 1954

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. S. JONES, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR L. KENT.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer :

L. J. SHIELDS, A.S.A.A. (to 24th October, 1954)

J. ROBERTS, A.R.V.A. (from 24th October, 1954)

Health Committee :

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR L. KENT.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER.

Members :

Councillor MRS. C. CARR

„ MRS. E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

„ E. J. GILLESPIE

„ F. HOUGHTON

„ C. S. JONES

„ E. J. THOMPSON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

* Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. M. BOOTH, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

* Additional Sanitary Inspector :

T. SUTTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

MRS. B. M. LIGHTFOOT.

* Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors (R.S.I.)

PREFACE

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval my Annual Report for the year 1954, embodying the vital statistics of the District and other matters reflecting the standards of health, hygiene and sanitation, together with information respecting the more personal ancillary health services provided by the County Council as the Local Health Authority for the area, under the provisions of several enactments, particularly the National Health Service Acts, the National Assistance Acts, and the Children Act of 1948. Taking into account, as it must, the work of the Health Department as a whole, it embraces within its covers the Report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Booth, on the more immediate sanitary problems dealt with by him and by the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sutton.

Reviewing first the basic vital statistics, it will be noted that although the area in acres is unchanged (3,103) the number of inhabited houses has risen from 6,570 in 1953 to 6,670 in 1954, an increase of exactly 100 houses. The estimated mid-year population for 1954, however, has shown a slight reduction during the year, from 21,910 in 1953 to 21,850 in 1954 : this in itself is not of any moment, but some disquiet must be engendered by the marked reduction in the number of live births assigned to the District, and the consequent reduction in the live birth rate. During the current year the live births totalled only 292, of which 150 were males and 142 females, as compared with 366—(176 males and 190 females) in 1953, and resulted in a reduction of the " crude " birth rate from 16.7 to 13.4 with a comparable decrease in the " adjusted " birth rate from 16.5 to 13.1 per 1,000 of the population. Frankly, one is at a loss to account for this 20% reduction in the number of births, which is unprecedented in my experience as a Medical Officer of Health, and in the statistics of this Authority as far back as can be traced. Bearing in mind the varied character of the industrial undertakings in the district, the high level of employment, the generally improved and improving standards of living, and the somewhat brighter horizon of international relations, this feature is certainly rather surprising and the reasons for it so complex and confused that any dogmatic pronouncement could never be justified. To my mind, however, two considerations present themselves : possibly the fuller employment of young married women may be one reason, and difficulties and uncertainties about housing accommodation another ; but both are entirely conjectural.

Of the total live births 12 were illegitimate, giving an illegitimacy rate of almost 4%, a figure twice as great as in 1953, but more in keeping with that of 1952 and those for several years previously. The figure of 4% corresponds fairly closely with those of surrounding County Districts, but one would, of course, like to see it reduced very considerably, and consideration is being given as to whether talks embodying simple instruction in sex matters, given by a medical or nursing member of the School Health Staff to senior girls and possibly boys also, would be of value.

No fewer than 16 still births were registered, 10 male and 6 female, giving a still-birth rate of 52/1,000 total (live and still) births, as compared with a rate of 34/1,000 in 1953, and a quinquennial mean rate of 24/1,000 for the five years 1949-53. The actual number of still-births is only 3 more than in 1953, but the rate per 1,000 total births is of course, raised disproportionately because of the reduced number of live births registered, and the increased number of still-births. Nevertheless the trend noticeable during the last year or two towards a higher still-birth rate is disquieting, especially having regard to the ante-natal and midwifery services available to the expectant mothers of the district, of which fuller use both could and should be made. In this connection I would refer to a paragraph in the preface to my last Annual Report, and which I feel may quite justifiably be reiterated here. The causes of still-birth are many and varied, but in general reflect the state of health of the mother, on which a very great variety of unknown factors, educational, social and economic, have their several influences. One cannot help but feel some disquiet, during a year when there have been no real stringencies in the way of unemployment, no economic distress, no food shortages and so on, that this adverse trend should manifest itself. So far as the local authority ante-natal and midwifery services are concerned, I am fully satisfied that they are both sufficient and adequate, but unquestionably they are not being used to full advantage, as reference to attendance figures during the current year will show : the trend is unfavourable. In 1950 the number of expectant mothers attending, and the number of attendances made, were 299 and 917 respectively : in 1951, 217 and 766 ; in 1952, 177 and 474 ; in 1953, 168 and 425, and in 1954, 124 and 327.

One must, of course, take into account the lower number of births in 1954 when considering these figures, and that rather more than one half of the confinements of local mothers take place in hospital or maternity homes : also, that of those confined at home, nearly all have "booked" their local doctor for maternity services, which places on his shoulders over-all responsibility, not only for the confinement itself, but for all necessary ante-natal and post-natal care. In almost all instances of such arrangements the practitioners concerned feel that the attendance of their patients at the local ante-natal clinic for examinations and advice is redundant, and some are greatly averse to the suggestion that their patients should attend regularly at the ante-natal clinic. An inference I feel to be inescapable is that this

attitude must obviously influence their ante-natal patients against attendance.

Considering next the neo-natal, and the total infant death rates, the picture is much brighter than in 1953 : the total infant deaths (under 12 months old) was 9, and the neo-natal deaths (at 28 days or less) was 6—(included of course in the overall total of 9). The infant mortality rate for the year is therefore 31 (1,000 live births), as compared with 49/1,000 in 1953 ; the neo-natal death rate 21, as against 38 last year, and quinquennial means of 43 and 26 respectively. Of the neo-natal deaths, 2 were due to prematurity, 2 to congenital malformations, and 2 to birth injury : all 6 died within the first week of life, 5 being born (and dying) in hospital. All 3 children dying at ages between 4 weeks and 12 months died in hospital, directly or indirectly as the result of congenital defects and malformations.

No maternal death occurred in the current year, and no death was registered as either due to, or associated with, pregnancy or parturition. This is an improvement on last year, when one such death occurred, and in keeping with the " Nil " returns for the five years 1948-1952.

Consideration of the general overall death rate, and of the causes of death in order of frequency of occurrence, shows very much the same pattern as in previous years. The grand total of 236 again shows a preponderance of male deaths (139 to 97), and gives a " crude " death rate of 10.8/1,000 population, and an " adjusted " rate (comparable validly with other administrative areas in England and Wales) of 11.6. both the actual figure and the rates being somewhat lower than in 1953, and not significantly different from the mean " crude " death rate of the previous quinquennium. Diseases of the heart and circulation, excluding " strokes " (vascular diseases of the nervous system) account for 100 deaths, of which 32 were due to coronary disease and angina pectoris ; in addition 32 " strokes " were recorded, so that overall the " Diseases of the Heart and Circulation " Group accounted for 132 deaths, or approximately 56% of the total mortality. In second place comes " cancer," in its protean manifestations, causing 36 deaths (of which 19 were women and 17 men) and 15% of the total. Reference to the detailed analysis of the causes of death given in the following pages shows that in the women the sites of predilection were the breast (7), stomach (4) and uterus (3) ; whereas in the case of men the sites were other than the " stomach, lungs and bronchi " (15 cases). In this connection it is of interest here to note that only 2 deaths from chest cancer—which of late has received much public prominence and attention—were recorded. This condition thus constitutes about 6% of all cancer deaths, but only about 0.1 deaths per 1,000 of the population, a figure considerably lower than that in many surrounding districts or boroughs. Thirdly in frequency order come the " strokes," with 32 deaths (14%), fourth, diseases of the chest (excluding tuberculosis) with 29, (of which 12 were the result of bronchitis, 10 of pneumonia and 2 of influenza), constituting 12%

of the total ; and finally the deaths due to violence, (14), of which 3 resulted from traffic accidents and 1 from suicide, this group contributing 4% of the total death roll. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded during the year—a happy but probably fortuitous circumstance which is unlikely to be repeated in subsequent years, and probably results more from the laws of chance than from advances on modern ante tuberculosis therapy, impressive as these have been.

The year showed an unusually low incidence of notifiable diseases, which totalled but 230, the lowest number for many years ; only one-third of last years total, and two-fifths of the mean figure for the years 1949-1953—a very satisfactory and fortunate position, due basically to an overall reduction in the number of cases of each individual disease, but particularly of measles (one-third of last years total), of whooping cough (19 cases—the smallest for many years), and of scarlet fever (25). There were no cases at all of any of the notifiable intestinal infections, such as the enteric group fevers, dysentery, or food poisoning ; none of poliomyelitis, encephalitis or meningococcal infection, and of course, none of diphtheria. In the group of notifiable infections related principally to maternity and childbirth, there were, however, 2 cases of puerperal pyrexia, but none of ophthalmia neonatorum. The 18 notified cases of respiratory tuberculosis is the lowest since 1952 (15), and well below the quinquennial mean of 22. The number of deaths from the notifiable diseases, this year only 2 (both resulting from primary pneumonia), also constitutes a new low record, and bears eloquent testimony to the efficiency of modern therapeutic measures, particularly the development of the antibiotic group of drugs.

The principal sanitary improvements still required are virtually unchanged ; more and better houses, by slum clearance, by new building and by improvement and renovation ; the prevention of water course pollution, and the clearance of accumulated deposits of refuse of all kinds ; reduction in the amount of air pollution, both gaseous and particulate, from smoke, grit and exhaust fumes ; improvements generally in older school premises, particularly in regard to the provision of adequate sanitary and ablution facilities of modern type, and in adequate artificial lighting. The standard of cleanliness in several of these schools also leaves much to be desired. Better housing conditions, however, should in my view undoubtedly receive first priority as the measure most immediately necessary.

Taken as a whole, therefore, the year has presented satisfying evidence of improved health and standards of living, the notable exceptions being related to the reduced low birth rate and to the high still birth rates recorded. As outlined above the causal factors of both are obscure, but in my personal view improved standards of housing would favourably influence both these indices of community health, physical, mental and moral.

This short analytical preface and review would certainly be in complete without my expression of thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, to

all members of the Health Committee, and of the Council, for the intensive interest which you have displayed, and the close support and encouragement you have afforded the Officers of your Health Department in carrying out their duties, which year by year become more complex and onerous. Preventive and social medicine is relatively unspectacular and the value of the day to day work of its disciples is often unrecognised by the general public, or at best gravely underestimated ; so that encouragement deriving through the elected representatives is all the more necessary to sustain the vocational dedications of these who pursue its arduous and comparatively—(from the financial aspect)—unrewarding path. In my part-time capacity as Medical Officer of Health, I may perhaps be permitted to emphasize here the high regard in which I hold my colleagues in your Health Department ; to stress the conscientious, solid and unremitting character of their work, in their several spheres, and to thank them all most sincerely for their efficiency, loyalty and help. Also, I would extend to Mr. J. Shields, the late Clerk of the Council, my gratitude for his assistance with many problems, and at the same time welcome his successor, Mr. J. Roberts, and wish him every success in his post as Chief Officer of the Authority. Helpful advice and information has always been available from the Chief Officers of every Department of the Council, as from their deputy and subordinate staff ; to one and all, I am genuinely grateful for their assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of a rural character. It is "built up" with dwelling houses, with Shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing, and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

2. STATISTICS—GENERAL.

Area in acres : 3,103. Population (Census, 1951 : 21,862.
(Estimated mid-1954) : 21,850

Inhabited Houses : Rate Books (end 1954) 6,670

Rateable Value	....	£112,011
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	£439
Births assignable to District	....	292
Deaths assignable to District	....	236
"Natural Increase"	....	56

3. VITAL STATISTICS.

Births :

Live Births 292	Legitimate 280	Illegitimate 12
	Male 146	Male 4
	Female 134	Female 8

Live Birth Rate "Crude"—13.4 "Adjusted"—13.1

Still Births 16 Male 10 Female 6.

Still Birth Rate 52 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

Deaths.

General 236 Male 139 Female 97.

Death Rates "Crude"—10.8 "Adjusted"—11.6.

The "adjusted" death rate is the "Crude" death rate after adjustment by a "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General.

Infant Deaths (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

Total 9 Male 4 Female 5.

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants 28

Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants 83

Total Infant Mortality Rate 31

Neo-Natal Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age 6.

Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 21

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate. Nil.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLES.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (All Causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births
1954	292	*13.4	236	*10.8	16	52	nil	nil	9	31	6	21
1953	366	16.7	253	11.5	13	34	1	2.64	18	49	14	38
1952	358	16.3	249	11.3	6	16	nil	nil	16	45	9	25
1951	346	15.9	252	11.6	8	23	nil	nil	9	26	5	14
1950	343	15.6	261	11.9	7	20	nil	nil	14	41	9	26
1949	357	16.5	234	10.8	9	25	nil	nil	20	56	—	—
Avg. 5 years 1949-53	354	16.2	250	11.4	9	24	0.2	0.53	15	43	9 (4 yrs.)	26

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 0.98) = 13.1 per 1,000.
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.07) = 11.6 per 1,000.

Comparison of Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Morbidity and Mortality with those for England and Wales.

						Newton-le-Willows		England and Wales
						1953	1954	1954
						Rate per 1,000 Population		
Births —Live	...	...	...	...	...	16.5	13.1	15.2
	Still	...	...	...	...	0.59	0.73	0.36
Deaths —All causes						12.5	11.6	11.3
Tuberculosis (all forms)						0.18	0.00	0.18
Respiratory						0.14	0.00	0.16
Non Respiratory						0.02	0.00	0.02
Cancer (all forms)						1.73	1.60	2.04
Lungs and Bronchus						0.18	0.09	0.37
Other Cancer						1.55	1.51	1.67
Maternal Mortality (total)						0.47	nil	0.69
Maternal causes (excluding								
Abortion)						0.47	nil	0.58
Due to Abortion						nil	nil	0.11
						Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
Infant Mortality						49.	31.	25.5
Neo-natal Mortality						38.	21.	17.7
						Rate per 1,000 population		
Notifications —								
Typhoid Fever						0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever						0.00	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection						0.00	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever						3.60	1.14	0.96
Whooping Cough						7.07	7.09	2.39
Diphtheria						0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas						0.59	0.41	0.12
Small Pox						0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles						17.43	17.53	3.32
Ac. Pneumonia						1.50	1.10	0.60
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)						0.00	0.00	0.03
(Non-Paralytic)						0.00	0.00	0.01
Food Poisoning						0.00	0.00	0.20
Tuberculosis—Respiratory						1.05	0.83	0.87
Meninges & C.N.S.						0.00	0.00	0.02
Other...						0.00	0.04	0.11
Puerperal Pyrexia						0.14	0.09	0.28

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the District was 184. Thirteen of these were non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided. 65 residents of this area died in other districts.

An analysis of the causes of death is shown below :—

Causes of Death.					Male.		Female.		Total.
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach					2	....	4	....	6
Lung, Bronchus					2	....	—	....	2
Breast					—	....	7	....	7
Uterus					—	....	3	....	3
All other sites					15	....	2	....	17
Leukemia	....	...	....	....	—	....	1	....	1
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	—	....	1	....	1
Vas. Lesions of Nervous System					16	....	16	....	32
Coronary disease, angina					27	....	5	....	32
Hypertension with heart disease					6	....	4	....	10
Other heart disease ...					23	....	25	....	48
Other circulatory diseases					7	....	3	....	10
Influenza					1	....	1	....	2
Pneumonia ...					5	....	5	....	10
Bronchitis					10	....	2	....	12
Other respiratory diseases ...					3	....	2	....	5
Ulcer stomach and duodenum					1	....	—	....	1
Congenital malformations ...					3	....	1	....	4
Other defined or ill defined diseases					9	....	10	....	19
Motor vehicle accidents					2	....	1	....	3
All other accidents					6	....	4	....	10
Suicide					1	....	—	....	1
All causes ..					139	....	97	....	236

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The District's water supply continued to be obtained chiefly from the deep wells at the Council's Southworth Road Works, and Makerfield Borehole.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard, is otherwise very satisfactory chemically.

26 bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and 24 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made. 5 of the latter, 4 from one consumer's premises and 1 from another, were unsatisfactory, due to contamination within the taps concerned.

6,669 dwelling houses, housing a population of 21,847 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. 1 house with 3 occupants draws supplies from a spring.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

Food—Inspection and Supervision of Supplies.

(a) Milk Supply.

Supervision of the distribution of Milk was continued and the following action was taken in relation to :—

	No. of samples	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
(a) Raw Milk.			
(i) Tuberculosis—			
biological tests	... 12	... 10 (T.B. neg.)	... *Nil
(ii) Methylene Blue			
reduction tests	... 16	... 13	... 3
(b) “ Heat Treated ” Milk.			
(i) Phosphatase test	... 30	... 30	... Nil
(ii) Turbidity test	... 18	... 18	... Nil
(iii) Methylene Blue			
reduction test	... 31	... 31	... Nil
(iv) Tuberculosis	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil

* Reports on 2 samples indicated “ no result ” due to deaths of the guinea pigs.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

All meat retailed in the district continued to be supplied by the Ministry of Food from the Leigh distribution centre until June.

Except for occasional slaughter by pig-keepers of their own pigs for home consumption no slaughtering took place within the district.

All premises used for food preparation, butchers, grocers, ice cream manufacturers and vendors, bakehouses, etc., were kept under observation and inspected regularly.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(c) **Adulteration.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Sanitary Inspectors are Sampling Officers.

62 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, County Offices, Preston. All were reported to be genuine.

For details of these samples see the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Report.

Rivers and Streams.—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees. Measures taken to deal with such pollution must of necessity be extemporary pending the completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme, which should ease the position materially.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Extensions have been made to all new houses. Construction of the Sankey Valley trunk sewer proceeded and it now extends to its northerly limit, although connections to this district will be delayed until completion of the lower end of the sewer and the sewage works.

5. HOUSING.

2,002 houses and flats are owned by the Council, of which 759 have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 48 houses and 44 flats have been erected by the local authority and 33 by other bodies or persons.

A scheme incorporating the erection of 98 houses and 24 flats on the Common Road site is half completed ; a start is to be made on the first portion of the Heald Farm Estate (52 houses) to be followed by the second portion (294 houses). A future site for over 500 houses is available at Bradlegh Road.

The number of houses needed to relieve the shortage, can only be estimated. Approximately 180 houses are needed to replace unfit dwellings ; 19 for overcrowded families ; and 450 for families living in other unsatisfactory conditions.

The type of house built between 60 and 120 years ago, are generally of sound construction but lacking amenities such as food stores, hot water, coal and other storage accommodation, as well as being below bye law standard in varying degrees.

There is also a number of cottages, with ages ranging from 150 to 300 years, which have nothing to recommend them except that they are picturesque and kept in reasonable repair.

Back to back houses are 2 in number ; back to earth houses 1 ; and single type (blank rear wall) number 1.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	19
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	23
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	156
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding discovered during year	2
(c)		Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	5
		Number of persons concerned in such cases	41

Closest Accommodation.—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system, except the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, are below sewer level, or are isolated by streams, railway lines, or the canal.

Number of privy middens	18
Number of closets attached to these middens....	22
Number of pail closets	53
Number of chemical closets	5
Number of houses on water carriage system	6572

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles, and disposal of the former by controlled tipping are supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying, etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's department.

SECTION 6.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Admissions.

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious diseases are provided at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington, where isolation and treatment were provided for 22 cases, 20 of these being of Scarlet Fever.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Notified											
	Age Groups											
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 and over	Age un-known	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	25	—	3	3	10	6	1	2	—	—	—	nil
Measles ...	131	8	32	26	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	nil
Whooping Cough ...	19	4	2	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	nil
Acute Pneumonia ...	24	2	—	1	2	—	3	2	10	4	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	nil
Erysipelas ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	—	nil
Tuberculosis—												
Respiratory ...	18	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	9	—	—	nil
Other ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	nil
Totals ...	230	14	37	35	85	7	7	17	22	6	—	2

Notifiable Diseases. Comparative Table of Incidence.

Disease	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1949-53 (Mean)		1954	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	89	—	20	—	34	—	17	—	79	—	47	—	25	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	314	—	63	—	586	—	98	—	383	1	289	0.2	131	—
Whooping Cough ..	67	—	221	—	31	1	195	—	155	—	174	0.2	19	—
Enteric Group Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	1.6	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	1.2	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1.0	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—
Primary & Influenzal Pneumonia ..	23	11	30	14	97	18	44	17	33	4	55	13	24	2
Erysipelas ..	12	—	14	—	16	1	6	—	13	—	12	0.2	9	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ..	14	9	21	5	38	9	15	8	23	3	22	6.8	18	—
Non-respiratory ..	6	—	3	1	3	—	6	2	3	1	4.2	0.8	2	—
TOTALS ..	527	20	374	20	813	29	385	27	693	10	558	21.2	230	2

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1954 :—

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				13	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	18		2		—		—	

SECTION 7.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	12	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	53	70	—	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	4	7	—	—
Totals	61	89	—	—

(2) Cases in which Defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6	—	4	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) unsuitable or defective	8	8	—	4	—
Total	14	14	—	8	—

SECTION 8.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) Laboratory Arrangements.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at its Monsall Laboratory, Monsall Green, Near Manchester, or alternatively at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston, whilst as regards water supplies, the arrangements previously in force with Messrs. Melling & Arden, Manchester, have been continued.

(2) Hospital Arrangements.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board : Warrington & District Hospital Management Committee).

As regards hospitals the District lies within the boundaries of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, which administers Newton-le-Willows War Memorial (General) Hospital in Bradlegh Road, Wargrave, with a nominal establishment of 10 beds. The former Isolation Hospital, has been re-opened, having undergone alterations and re-equipment, whereby out-patient facilities have been materially extended, including the provision of an X ray and physiotherapy department. A Chest Clinic, under the control of Dr. Black, Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington Area, is now held in these premises.

The great majority of persons requiring both general out-patient and in-patient investigation and treatment are dealt with by the Warrington Infirmary and by the General Hospital, Warrington, whilst cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Aiken Street, Warrington.

Expectant mothers requiring to be confined otherwise than in their own homes, whether on medical, obstetrical or environmental grounds, are normally admitted either to the maternity wards of the General Hospital, Warrington (if obstetrical complications are likely) or to the Victoria Park, Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington.

Child patients requiring attention in Children's Hospitals are admitted to the paediatric wards of the General Hospital, Warrington ; to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester : also to the Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral, and the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, Biddulph, near Congleton, when specialised Orthopaedic care is indicated.

(3) Ambulance Arrangements.

Local Health Authority Services (No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council).

Full responsibility for the management and operation of the Ambulance Service rests with the County Council as the Local Health Authority, and the district is fortunately placed in containing a County Ambulance Station, sited, in conjunction with the Fire Station in Borron Road, Earlestown (Telephone Newton-le-Willows 2013), from which three “ Stretcher ” ambulances and three “ sitting-case ” cars have operated on behalf of all types of cases, i.e., emergency, infectious disease, and general.

There has been a very considerable increase in the public demand for ambulance transport, as is shown by the subjoined summary of cases conveyed from the Urban District. The Earlestown Ambulance Station, of course, also serves other parts of No. 10 Health Division.

Summary of Cases Conveyed.

Emergency Cases, 1,127 ; General Cases, 4,488 ;
Infectious Cases, 30 ; Total, 5,645.

(4) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly at The Gables, Crow Lane West, on Monday and Thursday afternoons : and an Ante-Natal Clinic each Wednesday morning. Attendances at the Welfare sessions have been very satisfactory throughout the year, as is shown by the following figures ; although the total number of attendances made shows a fall of some 11% on last year's figures.

Child Welfare Centre, “ The Gables,” Crow Lane West.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer—Dr. W. F. Christian
(Tuesday afternoon session).

Health Visitors—Miss Heap, Miss Forshaw, and Miss Williams.

No. of sessions during the year	No. of individual children who attended and were born in			No. of attendances by children at ages		
	1954	1953	1952— 1949	0—	1—	2—4 incl.
98	198	232	313	4,974	1,176	327

Ante-Natal Clinic, "The Gables," Crow Lane West.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. Gordon Millington.

Medical Officer—Dr. W. F. Christian.

Health Vistors—Miss I. Heap,

Miss A. Forshaw.

Miss M. Williams.

No. of individual women attending, 124 ; No. of attendances, 327.

School Clinic, The Gables, Crow Lane West.

General. The work at this Clinic has continued, although not perhaps to quite the same extent as formerly, owing to changes brought about by the National Health Service Act, whereby the general medical care and treatment of the school child becomes the responsibility of the family practitioner who has accepted the child on his list, such advice and treatment by the practitioner now given without cost to the parent. Despite this, the Education Authority still retains a duty to provide a comprehensive scheme of treatment for children of school age.

Both general medical and specialist sessions are held, as detailed below :—

Assist. Divisional School Medical Officer—Dr. W. F. Christian.

School Nurse and Health Visitor in attendance—Miss Forshaw.

Assist. Divisional Medical Officer's Session each Friday morning during school term.

Nurse's re-dressing, etc., session each Tuesday morning during school term.

Dental.

The School Dental Officer, Mr. A. E. Shaw, ably assisted by his Dental Assistant, Miss Entwistle, has continued the dental inspection of all school children in the district during periodic visits to schools, and afforded both conservative and radical treatment to those requiring it. Expectant and nursing mothers, and children of pre-school age are also eligible for advice and treatment.

Ophthalmic.

Ophthalmologist—Mr. Barker.

School Nurse in attendance—Miss A. Forshaw.

Sessions held weekly each Monday morning.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon may only be consulted by appointment.

Orthopaedic.

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Mrs. Garrett.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends one half day session monthly, seeing both new and old cases by appointment: the Nurse attends one whole day weekly, for the purpose of supervising the treatment prescribed, for adjustment of splints, etc., and for the tuition of remedial exercises to improve defects and deformities in posture, stance, feet, etc. She also attends with suitable cases at the St. Helens Baths, to instruct in remedial exercises carried out in the water.

(5) Midwifery Arrangements.

The district is now covered by three fully trained whole-time domiciliary midwives, details of whom are shown below, each of which has a car available for her duties, each of which has undergone a course of instruction in gas-air analgesia, and has available the necessary apparatus to enable a mother to secure at all events very considerable relief from the pains of labour. As will be noted from the figures quoted in the earlier sections of this Report, there has during the current year been a very considerable fall in the number of live births, and in the birth rate for the district, a fact which probably accounts to some extent for the falling off in attendances at the Ante-natal Clinic sessions, which this year have been almost one hundred less than in 1953. The trend towards hospital confinement has also continued, and as a result of these factors the number of babies actually born at home has been considerably reduced.

Mrs. S. E. Butler, 46 Kingsway, Wargrave.

Telephone : Newton-le-Willows 3210.

Miss G. J. McGuinness, 16 Ruskin Avenue.

Telephone : Newton-le-Willows 3778.

Mrs. M. Kirwan, 12 Sandy Lane, Lowton.

Telephone : Leigh 1521.

(6) Health Visiting Arrangements.

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors (who combine with Health Visiting duties those of School Nurse), and by one part-time Health Visitor: these domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision of the children and the health education of the families, are of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors engaged are :—

Miss I. Heap, Maynard, Belvedere Road, Earlestown ;

Miss A. Forshaw, Shotley Mount, Newton Road, Lowton :

Miss M. Williams, 16, Ruskin Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

Mrs. M. Parker (Part-time), Higher Astley, Vitriol Square,
Earlestown.

(7) Home Nursing Arrangements.

Home nursing is now undertaken by four whole-time nurses, assisted by a state enrolled Assistant Nurse in suitable cases. The demand for nursing services has continued to grow, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, the staff have been kept very fully occupied throughout the year.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Mrs. M. M. Charnley, 3, Park Avenue North, Newton-le-Willows ;

Mrs. O. Falcon, 60, Grosvenor Gardens, Newton-le-Willows.

Miss D. Johnson, 158, Park Road South, Newton-le-Willows.

Miss M. Littler, 69, Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

Nursing Equipment—Provision for Loans.

A wide variety of ancillary nursing equipment which may be required in the home—ranging from hospital type beds, wheel-chairs, dunlopillo mattresses and similar large items down to smaller but none-the-less essential articles such as feeding cups, air rings, bed pans, etc., is available on loan on the recommendation of the Nurse having charge of the case, at no cost to the patient except for damage not occasioned by reasonable “ wear and tear.” Some of the larger items are available from small central stocks held at the Divisional Health Offices, whilst each nurse holds a small local supply of the less bulky and more frequently required articles.

(8) Home Help Arrangements.

This is a “ permissory ” service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help when required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, mental deficiency, an expectant mother, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has expanded very greatly during the year in question, as the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided, and in certain urgent cases “evening help” and night help have been made available.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time “ helps ”; no whole-time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker, Miss P. Butler, is responsible for the immediate day to day operation of the scheme and is of course one of the Divisional Medical Officer’s Staff. She also has considerable responsibilities for Welfare Services under the National Assistance Act, 1948, which will become more and more pressing as the full provisions of the **approved scheme**, formulated by the County Council under the National Assistance Act, 1948, and given Ministerial approval last year, become implemented.

(9) Mental Health Arrangements.

The Urban District, being part of the Health Division, is covered for this purpose by two Duly Authorised Officers of No. 10 Health Division, and by a lady Mental Worker, who deal with all the aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts, and the Mental Treatment Act.

The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12 Kenyon Lane, Lowton, Near Warrington.
Telephone : Warrington 3644.

Mr. Griffin, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.
Telephone : Warrington 3644.

Any request for the services of the Duly Authorised Officer outside of normal office hours should be made through the Ambulance Station—Newton-le-Willows 2013.

(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, (including Tuberculosis), and the provision of Convalescent Accommodation.

Responsibility for such arrangements rest with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis : “ illness ” includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Monks, who maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination or re-examination, and for that of contacts (including X-ray investigation) at the Chest Clinic at Bradlegh Road Hospital, administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, and attended by Dr. Black, the Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington Area.

As regards Health Education—(a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness)—it is pertinent here to emphasize that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant, and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out as part of his duties to the patient, or by attendance at the monthly immunisation sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, The Gables, Crow Lane West, where this work is carried out by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

As regards the immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency, whilst the vaccination state is deplorable and potentially dangerous, as the following figures show.

During the year a total of 272 children under 15 years of age completed a full course of immunisation, of which 226 were under the age of 5 years, and 146 being infants under 12 months old. In addition to the above, 5 persons over the age of 15 years also completed a full course of immunisation making a grand total of 277.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under the age of 15 in an immunised state at 31st December, 1954, was 59% as against a figure of 65% for the child population in Health Division 10 as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 85 persons, of whom 66 were infants under 1 year of age, underwent primary vaccination (all but 4 successfully) whilst 29 adults were re-vaccinated. If one deducts from the total of 375 live births belonging to the District in 1953, the 9 infant deaths, this means that out of the 366 survivors, 66 were vaccinated ; or approximately one in every 5 children born.

9. THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years, who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of the Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Newton Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Leigh Area, who is assisted by Children's Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived" children, e.g., the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a

“ fit person ” under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officer and her Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officer and his staff, and I am happy to say that in this District (included in No. 10 Health Division), the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Leigh Area Children's Officer is :—

Miss J. W. Cole, 89/91, Railway Road, Leigh.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

So far as the Urban District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case, also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for those requiring it, and to Welfare Services in General for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare services utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation. Receiving Ministerial approval last year, it is widely comprehensive of the needs of all aged and handicapped persons, including social welfare, home and workshop employment, occupational therapy, the disposal of the products of employment, training facilities in arts and crafts, and the need for holiday homes and hostels. It now appears likely that this excellent scheme may possibly come into full operation earlier than was previously expected, as the result of the appointment in the near future of Welfare Officers, working specifically in this field under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer.

Section 47 of the Act places on the Local County District Council responsibility for making application to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to secure the removal to a suitable hospital or other institution of any aged and infirm person who is unable to devote to himself proper care and attention, and is not receiving such from other persons. The application is made following certification by the Medical Officer of Health that such removal is necessary. No action under this Section was required during the current year.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on the District Council the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Although the work has again been mainly of a routine character, the year should be marked for the opportunities it has presented in the direction of Housing. The directive to resume slum clearance work on a scale comparable with that of pre 1939 days, was followed by the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, which ensures that Local Authorities will consider the number of unfit houses within their areas which can only be dealt with by demolition, and will submit to the Minister proposals on their abolition. The Act is also designed to encourage owners (a) to repair and maintain fairly good houses by the inducement of limited increases in rents, and (b) to improve good houses by making possible a degree of assistance towards the costs involved. It is not yet possible to foresee the full effect of the Act, but given reasonable interpretation and use, it should be the means of raising considerably the standard of housing within a period of five years. Certainly it will involve a great deal of extra work in the Department, but the Act and the directive are welcomed as marking the end of a sixteen year period of comparative inactivity in the field of housing and as providing the means of ending some of the frustrations of recent years.

1. General Sanitation.

(a) Water Supply.

Samples of water before chlorination were taken each month at each of the Council's waterworks, and samples were also obtained of the chlorinated supply on reaching the taps of different consumers.

Routine samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

Although all the samples taken from the Council's waterworks were of the usual high standard, two samples from consumer's taps were found on bacteriological examination to be of class 3. A check sample of one of them was found to be of class 1, but the other produced three class 4 samples before a satisfactory sample was obtained. As this is most unusual, it is of interest to note that it required sampling at different points on the supply pipe to the house before the cause was traced to the tap itself. The usual sterilisation of the nozzle of the tap by flaming proved to be insufficient to get rid of the contamination, and it was only after dismantling the tap, renewing the washer and the packing in the gland that a satisfactory sample was obtained.

(b) **Closet Accommodation.**

18 privy middens to which are attached 22 closets, and 53 pail closets exist in the unsewered areas of the district mainly in and around Vitriol Square.

6 privy middens were abolished during the year and 1 was converted to a pail closet.

(c) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The difficulty of staffing the refuse collection service affected the Department for the first time in my twenty years period with the Council. No driver resigned but no less than 7 out of the 12 refuse collectors employed at the end of 1953 left during the year to engage in more remunerative and congenial employment. In addition, one of the replacements found the work to be too heavy and resigned after one day.

The frequent changes in personnel interfered with the service although weekly collections were maintained except at holiday periods.

Materials Salvaged during Year.

Material.	Weight.			Income.		
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	128	5	0	843	4	6
Ferrous Metals	—	11	0	2	10	0
Non-ferrous Metals	—	—	3	3	0	0
Tins	2	14	0	2	14	0
Rags	—	10	0	7	10	0
Miscellaneous	—	5	0	2	0	0
Totals	132	5	3	£860	18	6

The amount of waste paper collected was 16 tons more than in the previous year, and income increased by £91.

(d) **Shops and Offices.**

50 inspections were made of shops regarding ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences. Water supply was improved at two shops ; heating at one, and sanitary conveniences at one.

30 offices were inspected and ventilation was improved at two.

(e) **Factories and Workshops.**

Routine inspections were maintained throughout the year and only minor matters required attention.

(f) **Rodent Control.**

The Ministry of Agriculture's requirements for rodent control were observed and all types of premises were inspected and treatments carried out where necessary.

The number of complaints of single rats being seen is increasing, and this seems to indicate that the service is being appreciated. The value of these complaints is that investigation may reveal the existence of a colony of rats, although undue importance is often given by the complainants to the stray rat.

Number of infestations found and treated at :—

(a) business premises	....	....	....	....	20
(b) dwellings	....	....	....	....	41
(c) Local authority's property	....	....	....	....	2
(d) agricultural	....	....	....	....	Nil.

The sewers of the district were treated twice and the Council's sewage disposal works and refuse tip were baited regularly.

Treatment of Sewers				Treatment No. 18	Treatment No. 19
Total number of manholes	....	....	....	606	606
Dates of treatment	....	....	....	26th April to 29th April	25th Oct. to 27th Oct.
Bait base used				Bread Mash	Sausage Rusk
Poison used	....	....	....	Arsenic.	Zinc. Phosphide
Number of manholes baited*	....			79	107
Number of manholes showing take of bait	....	....	....	47	45
Number of manholes showing complete take	....	....	....	29	37
Number of manholes test baited and not included at*	....	....		70	Nil.
Scheme of baiting	....	....	....	Consecutive days.	

(g) **Atmospheric Pollution.**

Observations were kept on the factory chimneys and excessive emissions of black smoke were noted at one of them. The owners of the factory concerned spent considerable amounts on the boiler plant, including the cost of provision of a new boiler during the year, and whilst considerable improvement in smoke emission has been noted, it cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory.

Considerable time was spent in observations on the chimneys of oil burning furnaces at another factory in respect of which complaints of black smoke had been received. No emission of black smoke was noted although observations were kept at different periods between 7-0 a.m. and 7-0 p.m. As these complaints were received late in the year it was impossible to extend observations over earlier and later hours.

A colliery spoil bank situated outside the boundary of the district commenced burning during the year and the appropriate local authority was notified so that joint action may be taken by the two authorities if nuisance arises.

2. Housing.

(a) Proposals 1954 Act.

The preliminary work in the preparation of the proposals for dealing with unfit houses as required by the new Act, revealed that the houses of the district fall roughly into the following categories :—

Group	Classification	No. of Houses
i. The best houses 3,153
ii. Houses requiring only improvement 2,243
iii. Houses requiring repair and improvement 885
iv. Houses requiring demolition 180

By the end of the year the only matter to be decided in order to complete the proposals, was the number of houses which could be made available for rehousing persons displaced from unfit houses.

(b) Unfit Houses.

6 houses were vacated under Demolition Orders, and 1 in respect of which an undertaking had been accepted. 3 houses were demolished during the year.

3 Demolition Orders were made.

(c) Overcrowding.

No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	19
No. of families dwelling therein	.... ....	.... 24
No. of persons dwelling therein	.... ....	.... 156
No. of new cases discovered during year	....	.... 2
No. of cases relieved during year	.... ....	.... 4
No. of persons concerned in such cases	.... ....	.... 35

Of the 19 cases of overcrowding existing at the end of the year, 14 were due to growth of the tenant's family and 5 to the lack of immediate housing accommodation for a married son or daughter. Of the tenant cases, 8 require larger houses than are now being built.

(d) Certificates of Disrepair.

27 applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the 1954 Act were received, and 26 of them were granted.

5 applications under the 1920 Act were received and all were granted.

3. Food and Food Hygiene.

Premises at which food was handled, prepared, stored, or sold, were visited at intervals and generally were of a satisfactory standard.

Food stalls on the market were inspected regularly and the condition of food hawkers' vehicles was checked frequently.

(a) No. of food premises at end of year :—

Type of business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	79
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish)	21
Fishmongers	4
Meat Shops (butchers, cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.	22
Bakers and/or confectioners	17
Fried fish shops	17
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	33
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes etc.	46
Total	239

(b) No. of registered food premises at end of year :—

Type of business	No. Registered	No. of Inspections
Preservation of Food	8	35
Sale, manufacture and storage of ice cream	64	145
Storage accommodation for hawkers	11	39

(c) **Milk Supply.**

Routine and special visits were made and registration and licences were granted as follows :—

Number of Distributors of Milk registered and operating from :—

(i) Dairies in the district	7
(ii) Dairy farms in the district	4
(iii) Shops in the district other than dairies	54
(iv) Premises outside the district	14

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued during 1954, in respect of :—

(i) Tuberculin Tested Milk	21
(ii) Accredited Milk	Nil.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)

Regulations 1949.

No. of licences issued in respect of “ Heat treated ” milk.

Retail Distributors :—

(i) Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
(ii) Sterilised	....	....	....	....	....	....	63

(d) Meat and Other Foods.

The following items were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption. All were surrendered voluntarily for destruction :—

Nature.	Quantities.		
	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Hind Quarter Meat	1		8½
Luncheon Meat, 11 tins			16
Jellied Veal, 2 tins			12
Minced Beef Loaf, 9 tins			17½
Ham, 3 tins	1		19
Tongue, 7 tins	1		8
Stewed Steak, 8 tins			17
Crab Meat, 2 tins			1
Lobster, 1 tin			¼
Tuna, 1 tin			½
Salmon, 1 tin			½
Pilchards, 1 tin			1
Chicken, 5 tins			13
Tomatoes, 17 tins			17
Peas, 15 tins			22
Beans, 6 tins			5
Carrots, 15 tins			16
Spaghetti, 26 tins			25½
Pickles, 1 jar			¾
Prunes, 64 tins	2		5
Plums, 26 tins	1		12
Cherries, 7 tins			6¾
Damsons, 9 tins			9
Raspberries, 11 tins			15
Pears, 34 tins	1		3
Blackcurrants, 19 tins			23½
Peaches, 27 tins	1		14
Apricots, 32 tins	1		26
Pineapple, 26 tins			26
Oranges, 1 tin			¾
Lawtonberries, 1 tin			1¼
Loganberries, 1 tin			1
Strawberries, 2 tins			2
Grapefruit, 4 tins			3¼
Blackcurrant Jam, 1 jar			¾

Apricot Jam, 52 jars	....	....	1	14
Apricot Jam, 3 tins	....	....		3
Blackcurrant Jam, 108 tins	....	....	3	24
Marmalade Pudding, 21 tins	....	....	1	15
Chicken Soup, 2 tins	....	....		2
Beef Soup 3 tins	....	....		2½
Tomato Soup, 2 tins	....	....		1½
Vegetable Soup, 1 tin	....	....		1
Unsweetened Condensed Milk, 64 tins			2	6
Sweetened Condensed Milk, 2 tins				2
Cream, 2 tins	....	....		1
Butter, 18 packets	....	....		9
Apple Puree, 60 tins	....	....	2	0 16
Parkin Powder	....	....		14
Honey Malt Powder	....	....	2	18
Ginger Powder	....	....	3	—
Substitute Cream Powder	....	....	1	— 2
Meat Extender	....	....	2	18
Substitute Chocolate Powder	....	....	1	1 27
Mincemeat	....	....	1	—
Baking Powder	....	....	1	7
Jam Extender	....	....		16¼
Apple Rings	....	....	1	—
Sponge Powder	....	....	1	1 10
Egg Powder	....	....	1	1 26
Dried Bilberries	....	....		5
Substitute Ground Almond	....	....	4	2 22
Candied Peel	....	....	1	1 22
Sugar Substitute	....	....	2	11½
Cashew Nuts	....	....	1	14
Fat Extender Oil	....	....	2	—
Jelly Juice	....	....		22½
Dates	....	....	8	3 22
Mixed Fruit Slices	....	....	3	26
Cut Mixed Peel, 198 packets	....	....	1	21½
Tons			1 16	2 23½

The following occurrences are sufficiently unusual as to warrant special mention :—

During the year the pigs on a local farm were slaughtered at the farm, following an outbreak of swine fever. Ante mortem and post mortem inspections were made of 19 pigs and 11 whole carcasses, and parts or organs of 3 others were condemned.

The condemned carcasses and organs were buried in quicklime under 6 ft. of soil.

A consignment of mixed peel in 4 oz. packets was found to contain minute pieces of foreign matter, suspected to be parts of beetles. The peel was voluntarily surrendered for destruction and the packers,

and the sanitary authority of the district in which the packing was done, were notified. Improved methods of sorting the peel were instituted and the packing premises were improved under the supervision of the local Sanitary Inspector.

(e) **Adulteration of Food.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and its sanitary inspectors are appointed sampling officers under the Food and Drugs Acts. Dr. Walker, County Analyst, is appointed Public Analyst for this district, and we are grateful for the advice and assistance he so readily gives.

Article						Number taken.
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	33
Beef Sausage	....	....	....	....	....	2
Pork Sausage	....	....	....	....	....	1
Rubbed Parsley		....	....	....	....	1
Lemon Curd	....	....	....	....	....	3
Yorkshire Pudding Mixture	....	....	....	....	....	1
Baking Powder	....	....	....	....	....	2
Meat Paste (Chicken)	....	....	....	....	....	1
Borax B.P.	....	....	....	....	....	1
Meat Pudding		....	....	....	....	1
Tincture of Iodine		....	....	....	....	1
Olive Oil	....	....	....	....	....	1
Orange Crush	....	....	....	....	....	1
Icing Sugar	....	....	....	....	....	1
Pearl Barley	....	....	....	....	....	1
Ground White Pepper	....	....	....	....	....	1
Ground Ginger		....	....	....	....	1
Butter	....	....	....	....	....	2
Apricot Preserve		....	....	....	....	1
Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	1
Margarine	....	....	....	....	....	1
Tea	....	....	....	....	....	1
Jam	....	....	....	....	....	1
Coffee	....	....	....	....	....	1
Fresh Apple Puree	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total						62

1 sample of beef sausage contained 57% meat and 170 parts per million of Sulphur-di-oxide. As there was no declaration regarding the preservative on purchase, the vendor was warned of the offence. A sample of dried parsley contained 4.1% of sand and siliceous matter and in this case the packer was warned.

4. Infectious Diseases—Control.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases rooms were dealt with only on request. 14 houses were disinfected during the year.

5. Vermin Control.

No. of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	....	1
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	....	7
No. of visits to verminous premises	....	....	....	....	24
No. of verminous premises treated	....	....	....	....	8

6. Statistical Summary of Inspections made, Notices served, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	280
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(A) Analysis of Visits made by Inspectors.

(a) General Sanitation.

Water supply	46
Drainage	....	....	....	....	143
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	22
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	28
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	....	1
Factories	....	....	....	....	89
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	47
Outworkers	....	....	....	....	4
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	28
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	114
Licensed houses	....	....	....	....	4
Shops	....	....	....	....	50
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	44
Schools	....	....	....	....	10
Smoke Observations	....	....	....	....	18
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	....	34
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	3
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	49
Total	....	....	....	....	734

(b) **Housing.**

Under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	286
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	1134

Under Housing Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	54
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	96

Overcrowding.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	9
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	9

Verminous Premises.

No. of houses inspected	17
Visits paid to above	31

Miscellaneous Housing Visits				27
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Total	1663
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(c) **Infectious Diseases.**

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	25
Visits re disinfections	2
Miscellaneous I.D. visits	15

Total	42
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(d) **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Inspection of meat—shops and stalls	13
—other premises	6
Visits to butchers	....	....	54
Fishmongers, etc.	....	....	108
Grocers	....	....	377
Greengrocers and fruiterers	....	....	332
Dairies and milk distributors	....	....	155
Ice cream premises	....	....	145
Food preparing premises	....	....	35
Market Stalls	....	....	868
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	....	....	62
Restaurants	....	....	28
Canteens	....	....	15
Sugar confectionery	....	....	31

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk—bacteriological	....	....	....	....	61
Food and Drugs Samples	17
Water Sampling	52
Miscellaneous Food Visits	11
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Total	2370
					<hr/>
Total inspections and visits	5209
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(B) Notices Served and Complied With.

No. of informal notices served	237
No. of informal notices complied with	192
No. of statutory notices served	....	....	....	72
No. of statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	72

(C) Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.

Type of Defect.	Recorded	Remedied.
Chimney Stacks, Pots and Flues	18	.... 16
Brickwork and/or pointing	63	.... 41
Damp courses	20	.... 22
Doors and/or frames	17	.... 21
Drain stoppages	37	.... 37
Drains repaired or renewed	10	.... 11
Dustbins	25	.... 19
Firegrates	10	.... 9
Floors	25	.... 29
Gutters	69	.... 69
Paving	5	.... 4
Rainwater pipes	16	.... 20
Roofs	90	.... 69
Sinks, etc.	10	.... 9
Plastering	93	.... 66
Waste Pipes	11	.... 6
Water pipes	25	.... 17
W.C.'s, Basins, Cisterns, etc.	17 16
Windows, frames, sashcords, etc	46 43
Miscellaneous	16 12
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Total	623 536
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7. Additional Duties.

(a) Petroleum Acts and Orders.

There were 26 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit, 19 of them for private use and 7 in connection with the supply of petrol to the public.

2 premises were licensed to store carbide of calcium.

Each of them was visited at least once during the year and was found to be satisfactory.

(b) Lethal Chamber.

The painless destruction of cats and dogs is undertaken by the department and a charge of 1/- per animal destroyed is made. Pensioners bringing animals are exempted from payment.

78 dogs and 27 cats were destroyed in the electric chamber.

Income amounted to £5.3s.0d.

(c) Shops Acts.

The work done during the previous year, which included delivery to each shop of a summary of the provisions of the Act, resulted during this year in better observation of the requirements regarding display of notices.

The rapid increase in the numbers of small "mixed" businesses, the owners of which take advantage of the exemption clauses of the Act, necessitated extra observations of these shops after the general closing hours and on Sundays. No contravention of the Act was observed, and in the absence of any specific complaint the "agent provocateur" method was not employed.

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their consideration and continued interest, to Dr. Crawford for his help and support, to other officers of the Council for assistance so readily given, and especially to the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sutton, and the Health Department Clerk, Mrs. Lightfoot, for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

